



Natural Resources Conservation Service
675 U.S. Courthouse
801 Broadway
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

January 10, 2005

TENNESSEE BULLETIN NO. 300-05-2

SUBJECT: LTP – GRASSLAND RESERVE PROGRAM (GRP)

Action Required By: March 11, 2005

Purpose. To provide FY 2005 Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) implementation guidelines.

Expiration Date. September 30, 2005.

The revised ranking sheets for the Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) have now been posted on the Tennessee web page along with a Program Summary for FY 2005. All applications beginning October 1, 2004, should be ranked using the new sheets. Any previous year applicants who were not funded should have been canceled September 30, 2004. They must reapply to be considered for current year funding.

New items for FY 2005 include:

- Offers of less than 40 acres are acceptable under three conditions: (1) the offer is at least ten (10) acres of remnant prairie as defined in the program summary and ranking packet (only in designated counties); (2) the offer is at least 20 acres and more than 50 percent is existing native grass and the landowner is willing to restore the remaining portion to native grasses; and (3) the offer is at least 20 acres adjoining publicly owned or protected native grass areas of at least 20 acres and the landowner will restore to native grasses. The remnant prairie option must be enrolled in a 30-year agreement or an easement.
- Available cost share for restoration is increased to a maximum of \$4,000 per contract.
- The cost-share rate for restoration is set at 50 percent.
- Restoration is limited to three allowable cost-share treatments: (1) establishment of native grasses; (2) native legume interseeding into existing native grasses; and (3) chemical eradication of introduced grasses.

-M O R E-

DIST: O

- Scoring of an offer has been adjusted to reflect equal distribution of points for the four program objectives: (1) risk of conversion; (2) biodiversity; (3) ecologically significant remnant grassland protection; and (4) grazing management.

Tennessee received \$616,000 for financial assistance this year, and will begin obligating the money in March. All applicants should be ranked by March 1, 2005. Attached is a copy of a spreadsheet to be used for tracking and submitting applicant information. Each field office will provide this applicant information to the appropriate Area Resource Conservationist by Friday, **March 11, 2005**.

Applications will continue to be taken after March 1 based on the program continuous sign-up. A second funding period is anticipated for June 2005.

/s/

JAMES W. FORD
State Conservationist

Enclosure